

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 01557 311138Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 /088 W
-----056852 312150Z /75
R 301900Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9912
INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 1557

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, OAS, ES, HO
SUBJ: SALVADORAN ACTIVITY ALONG BORDER

REF: STATE 070304

1. GOH OFFICIALS HAVE NOT MENTIONED ROAD-BUILDING DESCRIBED
REFTEL TO EMBASSY.

2. OAS OBSERVER INFORMALLY TOLD US THAT THE BORDER AREA HAS
CONTINUED QUIET RECENTLY. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT IN THE SABANETAS
POCKET, THERE IS ONGOING ACTIVITY BY SALVADORANS TO IMPROVE THAT
AREA'S ROAD NETWORK. IT CONSISTS PRIMARILY OF UPGRADING UNIM-
PROVED DIRT ROADS AND NOT PAVING HIGHWAYS. THIS ACTIVITY IS
APPARENTLY CONFINED TO SABANETAS POCKET.

3. AT A MEETING LAST YEAR, THE HONDURAN AND SALVADORAN CHIEFS
OF STAFF AGREE TO MAINTAIN THE "STATUS QUO" IN AND AROUND THE
DISPUTED AREAS, BUT NO FORMAL AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED. EMBASSY
UNDERSTANDS THAT EL SALVADOR HAS INTERPRETED THE "STATUS QUO"
TO ALLOW ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, SINCE THEY CONTEND THAT THEY HAVE
ALWAYS WORKED ON IMPROVING ROADS. THE OAS HAS NOT ACCEPTED THIS
POSITION AND IS WORKING ON A RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. ACC-
ORDING TO THE OBSERVER, THE HONDURANS ARE AWARE OF THE ROAD
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BUILDING BUT HAVE NOT REGISTERED A PROTEST OR COMMENT. HE ADDED
THAT IN THE SABANETAS POCKET, MOST OF THE INHABITANTS APPEAR
TO CONSIDER THEMSELVES SALVADORANS.

4. COMMENT: PRESS REPORTS AND OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE
TO THE EMBASSY INDICATE THAT BOTH SIDES ARE MAKING AN APPARENTLY
DETERMINED EFFORT TO AVOID INCIDENTS, ESPECIALLY AS NEGOTIATIONS

ARE TO BEGIN SOON BETWEEN GOH AND GOES. EMBASSY AGREES WITH
OBSERVER'S ASSESSMENT THAT HIS ROAD-BUILDING ACTIVITY DOES NOT
NOW APPEAR TO BE A SOURCE OF FRICTION BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERN-
MENTS OR THE HIGH COMMANDS. HOWEVER, AS THE DEPARTMENT NOTED,
THE STILL TENUOUS NATURE OF THE BORDER TRUCE IS A CAUSE FOR CON-
CERN IF THIS ACTIVITY WERE TO BECOME THE SOURCE OF AN UNWANTED
CONFRONTATION AT A LOWER LEVEL.

JARAMILLO

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, DISPUTES, HIGHWAYS, BOUNDARIES, TRUCE OBSERVERS, BORDER INCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: PBOR, ELTN, ES, HO, OAS
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